

**REMARKS**

Claims 3, 5-12 and 14-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 and 13 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 3, 5, 10 and 14 are amended and claims 15-19 are added. No new matter is added.

**I. Allowable Subject Matter**

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-9 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. As claim 5 is rewritten in independent form, as well as to address the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 5-9, as well as dependent claim 3 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 10-12 and 15-19 are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

**II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 5 is rejected for reciting a feature that has insufficient antecedent basis. As claim 5 is amended, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

**III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-4 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,140,915 to Iwatani. As claims 1, 2, 4 and 13 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 3, 10-12 and 14 is traversed.

Claim 3 is amended to depend from allowable claim 5 and claim 10 is amended to recite the features identified in the Office Action as a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 3, 10-12 and 14 recite subject matter

admitted in the Office Action as being allowable. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

**IV. New Claims**

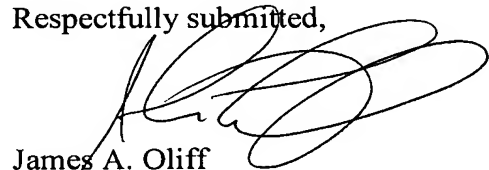
Claims 15-19 are allowable over the applied reference for their recitation of allowable subject matter. For example, independent claim 15 recites the features of allowable claim 5, as well as features recited in claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, independent claim 15, as well as dependent claims 16-19, are also in condition for allowance.

**V. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3, 5-12 and 14-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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